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Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Sixth session
Geneva, 4–8 February 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
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## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Conference, at its tenth session, held from 12 to 19 February 2000 in Bangkok (Thailand), in considering the issue of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, welcomed the document prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD" (reissued in TD/B/EX(24)/L.1). The purpose behind the recommendations contained in that document was *inter alia* to enhance the status of the Commissions as policy-formulating organs and to strengthen the substantive linkages between expert meetings and Commissions. It was recommended that the Commissions' work should be informed by the technical advice of the experts, that the Commissions should place the results of expert meetings within the appropriate policy context and framework, and that, on the basis of the expert reports and their own policy dialogue, the Commissions should make recommendations on actions to be taken by member States, UNCTAD or other bodies.

2. To this end, the Commission will have before it the reports of the expert meetings held during the previous months, as well as documentation prepared by the secretariat identifying, and commenting on, the policy questions posed by the expert reports for discussion by the Commission. In this connection, the outcomes of the expert meetings were circulated by the secretariat to member States with a request for policy comments on the experts' recommendations. The task of the Commission is to conduct policy dialogue and make policy recommendations on the outcome of the expert meetings, taking into account the views from the capitals.

### Item 1: Election of officers

3. In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Commission shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Commission shall consist of seven members (i.e. four members from Lists A and C combined, two members from List B and one member from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended).

4. Accordingly, following the cycle of rotation established after UNCTAD X, the bureau for the sixth session of the Commission shall be as follows: Chairman from List B, Rapporteur from List A (Asia); and five Vice-Chairmen (three from lists A and C combined, one from List B and one from List D).

### Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. At the closing plenary of its fifth session, on 23 March 2001, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its sixth session.

6. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Commission will have five days available to it. It is suggested that the agenda items be taken up sequentially, with the first plenary meeting on Monday, 4 February, being devoted to procedural matters, introductory statements and the commencement of the discussion under item 3. The last plenary meeting, on Friday, 8 February, would be devoted to the formal action under items 3 - 9.

7. The secretariat will prepare a detailed programme for the session, which will be made available on the first day of the session.

**Documentation**

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| TD/B/COM.1/44 | Provisional agenda and annotations |

**Item 3: The sustainable use of biological resources: Ways to enhance the production and export capacities of developing countries of agriculture and food products, including niche products, such as environmentally preferable products (EPPs)**

8. This item will provide an opportunity to examine possible avenues for future action aimed at strengthening production and export capacities of developing countries of agricultural and food products and environmentally preferable products, in particular organic produce. The expected outcome is recommendations for actions to be taken by Governments at the national, regional and multilateral levels and by international agencies, including UNCTAD to (a) address production and export constraints of developing countries; (b) foster quality and product differentiation; and (c) create and help seize export opportunities for agriculture and food products, including organic produce. Capacity-building needs in different regions will also be highlighted, with special attention given to LDCs.

**Documentation**

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| TD/B/COM.1/45 | Note by the UNCTAD secretariat |
| TD/B/COM.1/41<br>TD/B/COM.1/EM.15/3 | Report of the Expert Meeting on Ways to Enhance the Production and Export Capacities of Developing Countries of Agriculture and Food Products, including Niche Products, Such as Environmentally Preferable Products |

**Item 4: Analysis of ways to enhance the contribution of specific services sectors to the development perspectives of developing countries: Energy services in international trade: development implications**

9. This item will help examine how the outcome of the Expert Meeting could be put into action so as to help developing countries achieve the following objectives: (a) ensuring more

reliable and efficient access to energy for all segments of the population; (b) strengthening their competitive position in the supply of energy services at the various stages of the energy chain; and (c) negotiating commitments and additional provisions in the multilateral negotiations on trade in services supportive of the above-mentioned objectives. The experts identified areas where further analytical work and follow-up actions are needed. The discussion under this agenda item will provide an opportunity for the Commission to take decisions regarding priority areas of work for the UNCTAD secretariat in this field.

**Documentation**

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| TD/B/COM.1/46 | Note by the UNCTAD secretariat |
| TD/B/COM.1/42<br>TD/B/COM.1/EM.16/3 | Report of the Expert Meeting on Energy Services in International Trade: Development Implications |

**Item 5: Analysis of market access issues facing developing countries: Consumer interests, competitiveness, competition and development**

10. The Expert Meeting on Consumer Interests, Competitiveness, Competition and Development noted that properly implemented competition and consumer policies can make a key contribution to competitiveness and sustainable development. On the basis of the outcome of the Expert Meeting, the Commission will have an opportunity to recommend the follow-up action that needs to be taken in this field at national and international levels. In this connection, the Commission may wish to request UNCTAD to promote consumer interests and monitor implementation of the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection; to provide member countries upon request with technical assistance to adopt, reform and better implement appropriate laws and policy in this field; and to further study the interface between competition, consumer interests, competitiveness and development by focusing on how markets can integrate the informal sector, better work for the poor and generate growth, employment and export opportunities.

**Documentation**

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| TD/B/COM.1/47 | Note by the UNCTAD secretariat |
| TD/B/COM.1/43<br>TD/B/COM.1/EM.17/4 | Report of the Expert Meeting on Consumer Interests, Competitiveness, Competition and Development |

**Item 6: Progress report on the implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission**

11. The note on "Improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD" (TD/B/EX(24)/L.1), re-endorsed by the Board at its twenty-sixth

executive session on 10 April 2001, states: "Starting with the second session of each Commission, the fifth day of the session will be used for policy reviews of implementation by member States and the secretariat of the outcome of previous sessions, on the basis of documentation produced by the secretariat."

12. With regard to the implementation of the outcome of the fifth session of the Commission by the secretariat, the secretariat will provide the Commission with a report on its activities in that connection. Concerning implementation by member States, those member States wishing to do so will have an opportunity to present their experience to the Commission.

13. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to the decision adopted by the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-fourth executive session on 12 May 2000 by which the Trade and Development Board decided *inter alia* to "conduct in the second quarter of the year 2002 a mid-term review of the work of UNCTAD, based on the indicators of achievement agreed to in the medium-term plan (2002-2005)". The Commission's attention is drawn in particular to indicator (b) from the Medium-term Plan 2002-2005, which comprises "Member States' views on the practical value and impact on the development prospects of developing countries of policy recommendations, as expressed in the conclusions of the regular review of the work undertaken by intergovernmental bodies". The views and conclusions of the Commission under this topic will therefore serve as inputs to the mid-term review.

**Documentation**

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| TD/B/COM.1/48 | Progress report on the implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission |

**Item 7: Provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission**

14. A draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission will be submitted for consideration and approval.

**Item 8: Other business**

**Item 9: Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Trade and Development Board**

15. The report of the Commission on its sixth session will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for consideration.